

**Statement of
Wilkes County Board of Commissioners
City of Tignall
City of Washington**

March 30, 2020

On March 25, 2020, the State of Georgia announced Wilkes County has its first confirmed case of COVID-19.

Here is what we know:

- 1) The person involved was tested at a clinic in Oglethorpe County.
- 2) The person has been in quarantine since taking the test, and will be released after the 14-day quarantine period.

What does this mean for citizens of Wilkes County? This is not a reason to panic, but every one of us must be vigilant about social distancing, frequent hand washing, and other precautions. We have to be more careful in our daily routines. This temporary “new normal” requires us to keep a distance of at least six feet between individuals. It requires our elderly residents and those with underlying health issue to be even more conscientious in their efforts to self-quarantine. It requires us to be better neighbors. Ask those with a higher risk of serious health issues how you can help or if you can pick up items at the store.

From a business community perspective, the case confirmation also required some changes. Most of our local businesses are being very cooperative to implement Governor Kemp’s executive orders regarding distance between customers. For those that may be lax in enforcing these guidelines, please allow this to serve notice: We are increasing efforts to ensure the Governor’s orders are followed. Voluntary compliance with these orders is the alternative to closing doors and keeping customers out altogether. That is certainly not the option any of us want to pursue.

Thank you for your time and attention today. We want you and your families to be able to continue with your lives as normally as possible. We know that striking a balance between and normal life and protecting yourselves from COVID-19 is difficult. However, Wilkes County has a strong community spirit. We will make it out the other side stronger.